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Letter dated 20 June 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which was signed by my Government in Algiers on 18 June 2000, under the auspices of H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (see annex).

As you are aware, the Agreement calls for a peacekeeping mission to be deployed by the United Nations under the auspices of OAU to assist the parties in the implementation of the Agreement.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to formally request that the United Nations take the necessary measures in this regard.

The Government of Eritrea is confident of a positive and expeditious response, and wishes to express in advance its gratitude for the support of the international community to that end.

I would be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the immediate attention of the Security Council, and request that it be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile **Weldensae**
Minister

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Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea addressed to the Secretary-General

Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the State of Eritrea

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the State of Eritrea,

Having taken part in the proximity talks called by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Algiers from 29 May to 10 June 2000, under the Chairmanship of Algeria, the current Chair of OAU, and with the participation of its partners, namely, the United States of America and the European Union,

Committing themselves to the following principles:

- Resolution of the present crisis and any other dispute between them through peaceful and legal means in accordance with the principles enshrined in the charters of OAU and the United Nations;
- Rejection of the use of force as a means of imposing solutions to disputes;
- Respect for the borders existing at independence as stated in resolution AHG/Res.16 (1) adopted by the OAU Summit in Cairo in 1964 and, in this regard, determining them on the basis of pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law, making use, to that end, of technical means to demarcate the borders and, in case of controversy, resorting to the appropriate mechanism of arbitration;

Reaffirming their acceptance of the OAU Framework Agreement and the modalities for its implementation, which were endorsed by the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Algiers, Algeria, from 12 to 14 July 1999,

Taking into account the latest developments in this crisis,

Commit themselves to the following:

1. Immediate cessation of hostilities starting from the signature of this document. In particular, the two Parties agree to the following:

1.1 Cessation of all armed air and land attacks;

1.2 Guarantee of the free movement and access of the Peacekeeping Mission and its supplies, as required, through the territories of the Parties;

1.3 Respect and protection of the members of the Peacekeeping Mission, its installations and equipment.

2. A Peacekeeping Mission shall be deployed by the United Nations under the auspices of OAU.

3. The mandate of the Peacekeeping Mission shall be:

3.1 To monitor the cessation of hostilities;

3.2 To monitor the redeployment of Ethiopian troops;

3.3 To ensure the observance of the security commitments agreed by the two Parties in this document, in particular those provided for in paragraph 14;

3.4 To monitor the temporary security zone provided for in paragraph 12 of this document.

4. The size and the composition of the Peacekeeping Mission shall be adapted to the mission assigned to it and shall be determined by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OAU, with the acceptance of the two Parties.

5. The Peacekeeping Mission shall terminate when the delimitation-demarcation process of the border has been completed.

6. A Military Coordination Commission shall be established by OAU and the United Nations with agreement of the two Parties in order to facilitate the functions of the Peacekeeping Mission. It shall be composed of representatives of the two Parties and chaired by the leader of the Peacekeeping Mission.

7. The mandate of the Military Coordination Commission shall be to coordinate and resolve issues relating to the implementation of the mandate of the Peacekeeping Mission as defined in the present document. The Commission shall deal with military issues arising during the implementation period.

8. Upon the signing of the present document, both Parties shall conduct demining activities as soon as possible with a view to creating the conditions necessary for the deployment of the Peacekeeping Mission, the return of civilian administration and the return of the population as well as the delimitation and demarcation of their common border. The Peacekeeping Mission, in conjunction with the United Nations Mine Action Service, shall assist the Parties' demining efforts by providing technical advice and coordination. The Parties shall, as necessary, seek additional demining assistance from the Peacekeeping Mission.

9. Ethiopia shall submit redeployment plans for its troops from positions taken after 6 February 1999, and which were not under Ethiopian administration before 6 May 1998, to the Peacekeeping Mission. This redeployment shall be completed within two weeks after the deployment of the Peacekeeping Mission and verified by it.

10. In accordance with the principle established in paragraph 3 of the Framework Agreement, it is understood that the redeployment of Ethiopian forces will not prejudge the final status of the contested areas, which will be determined at the end of the delimitation and demarcation of the border and, if need be, through an appropriate mechanism of arbitration.

11. Upon verification of Ethiopian redeployment by the Peacekeeping Mission, Eritrean civilian administration, including police and local militia, shall be restored to prepare for the return of the population.

12. In order to contribute to the reduction of tension and to the establishment of a climate of calm and confidence, as well as to create conditions conducive to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict through the delimitation and demarcation of the border, the Eritrean forces shall remain at a distance of 25 km (artillery range) from positions to which Ethiopian forces shall redeploy in accordance with paragraph 9 of this document. This zone of separation shall be referred to in this document as the "temporary security zone".

13. The Eritrean forces at positions defined in paragraph 12 of this document, as well as Ethiopian forces at positions defined in paragraph 9 of this document, shall be monitored by the Peacekeeping Mission.

14. Ethiopia commits itself not to move its troops beyond the positions it administered before 6 May 1998. Eritrea commits itself not to move its troops beyond the positions defined in paragraph 12 above. OAU and the United Nations commit themselves to guarantee the respect for this commitment of the two Parties until the determination of the common border on the basis of pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law, through delimitation/demarcation and, in case of controversy, through the appropriate mechanism of arbitration. This guarantee shall be comprised of:

(a) Measures to be taken by the international community should one or both of the Parties violate this commitment, including appropriate measures to be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations by the United Nations Security Council;

(b) Actions by the Peacekeeping Mission to monitor key and sensitive areas of the temporary security zone through liaison officers at the division and regimental levels, with Ethiopian and Eritrean units deployed at key points along the temporary security zone on their respective sides; regular patrols; reconnaissance missions; and challenge inspections throughout the temporary security zone coordinated through the Military Coordination Commission, with the participation of liaison officers of the Parties as decided by the Chairman of the Military Coordination Commission;

(c) Deployment to and continuous monitoring by military units of the Peacekeeping Mission at posts in key and sensitive positions within the temporary security zone in order to monitor the implementation of the commitments made by both Parties in paragraphs 9 and 12 of this document;

(d) Periodic technical verification of the temporary security zone to help determine compliance with this document.

15. Upon the signature of the present document, the two Parties shall initiate separate requests to the Secretaries-General of OAU and the United Nations, as necessary, for assistance in implementing this document.

Algiers, 18 June 2000

For the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Seyoum **Mesfin**
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the State of Eritrea
Haile **Weldensae**
Minister of Foreign Affairs